

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06842 181704Z

51

ACTION PM-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, GR

SUBJECT: OPERATING RESTRICTIONS ON US FORCES

REFS: (A) STATE 203394; (B) USDAO ATHENS 301415Z AUG 74;

(C) USDAO ATHENS 051455Z SEP 74; (D) STATE 204669

1. RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF US FORCES OPERATING IN GREECE OR IN ITS VICINITY HAVE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN AREA OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS (SEE REFS B AND C FOR LATEST SITUATION). IN ADDITION, NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF ARMY AND MARINE CORPS HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED, AND NAVAL ACTIVITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN INHIBITED.

2. SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS INCLUDE FOLLOWING: (A) ATHENAI AB IS ONLY AIRFIELD OPEN FOR NORMAL US MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS. THIS RESTRICTION ALSO PROHIBITS LISTING OF ANY GREEK AIRFIELD AS A WEATHER ALTERNATE FOR AIRCRAFT FILING FLIGHT PLANS FOR LANDING AT ATHENS. ALTHOUGH ALL OTHER AIRFIELDS THEORETICALLY CLOSED,
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06842 181704Z

USDAO AND CHJUSMAGG HAVE OBTAINED CLEARANCES FOR WEEKLY

C-130 FLIGHTS (FOR MISSILE CREW ROTATION) INTO SOUDA AB, ONE INTO IRAKLION (MEDEVAC), AND ONE INTO THESSALONIKI. IN ADDITION, USDAO HAS SECURED CLEARANCE FOR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT TO FLY INTO CORFU, AND EMBASSY (BECAUSE OF ISLAND'S DEMILITARIZED STATUS) IS SEEKING CLEARANCE FOR SAME AIRCRAFT TO FLY INTO RHODES. (FONOFF CLEARANCE NOT PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED FOR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT BUT FOR ALL OTHER MILITARY AIRCRAFT GOING TO RHODES.) HOWEVER, HELICOPTER OPERATIONS OF 558TH ARTY GRP TO VARIOUS SITES NOT ALLOWED AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH COMMAND VISITS BEING MADE BY GROUND TRANSPORTATION. (B) ROUND ROBIN FLIGHTS WITHIN ATHENS FIR DENIED TO ALL US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. FLIGHTS FOR 7206TH AB GRP C-131, JUSMAGG U-21, USDAO C-47, AND 558TH ARTY GRP UH1H CREWS THEREFORE OBIATED UNTIL ROUND ROBIN FLIGHTS PERMITTED. ROUND ROBIN FLIGHTS OF RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT NOT INHIBITED BECAUSE THEY DEPART AND REENTER ATHENS FIR. (C) GOG HAS CLOSED AEGEAN AIRSPACE INCLUDED WITHIN UNILATERAL TURKISH EXTENSION OF ISTANBUL FIR TO ALL FOREIGN AIRCRAFT, COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS MILITARY. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY DECLARATION OF ENTIRE ATHENS FIR AS DANGER AREA, THROUGH WHICH TRAFFIC IS ALLOWED ONLY ON SPECIFIED AIRWAYS. ONLY TWO US MILITARY FLIGHTS HAVE TRANSITTED AEGEAN IN RECENT WEEKS AFTER INTERVENTION BY CHJUSMAGG, ON BOTH OCCASIONS TO CARRY COMLANDSOUTHEAST. (D) ANY OVERFLIGHT OR LANDING OF US MILITARY AIRCRAFT

IN GREEK AIRSPACE REQUIRES CONFIRMED AIRCRAFT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE. GOG REQUIRES SUBMISSION OF REQUEST NOT LESS THAN SIX HOURS IN ADVANCE OF AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR CLEARANCES FOR MOVEMENT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF OTHER COUNTRIES REQUIRED SEVENTY-TWO HOURS IN ADVANCE. (E) ALL REQUESTS FOR AIR-REFUELING OPERATIONS WITHIN ATHENS FIR HAVE BEEN REFUSED. (F) REQUESTS FOR FERRY FLIGHTS OF F-5E AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WITH REFUELING STOPS IN GREECE WERE REFUSED. GOG HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER US NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIER FLIGHT OPERATIONS (SEE REF D), BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

3. MOST HELLENIC ARMY DELIVERY UNITS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AWAY FROM NORMAL LOCATIONS, THEREBY PREVENTING USUAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 06842 181704Z

TRAINING WITH CUSTODIAL UNITS OF 558TH ARTY GRP. EVEN WHERE DELIVERY UNITS STILL IN PROXIMITY, THEY ARE NOT AT PRESENT ALLOWED TO TRAIN WITH US UNITS.

4. SIXTH FLEET MARINE ELEMENT WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO CONDUCT UNILATERAL AMPHIBIOUS LANDING EXERCISE IN PELOPONNESUS SEPTEMBER 3-9, ALTHOUGH PERMISSION HAD BEEN GRANTED IN APRIL 1974 FOR SERIES OF EXERCISES INCLUDING

ONE IN QUESTION. PROSPECTS FOR CONDUCTING NEXT SUCH
EXERCISE IN NOVEMBER 1974 UNCERTAIN.

5. HOMEPORTED DESTROYER SQUADRON HAS UTILIZED ELEFSIS
PIER WITHOUT LIMITATION, AND, AS IN THE PAST ONLY NOTIFICATION TO
GREEK AUTHORITIES REQUIRED RATHER THAN SECURING PERMISSION.
TRAINING ANCHORAGE REQUESTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED FOR OTHER
SIXTH FLEET SHIPS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PORT CALLS IN GREECE
DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OTHER THAN BY HOMEPORTED DE-
STROYERS. THIS RESULTS FROM DECISION BY US NAVY COMMANDS
NOT TO COURT REJECTION BY GOG, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE
RESULTED IF REQUESTS MADE FOR VISITS DURING PAST MONTH,
NOR TO EXACERBATE ANTI-AMERICAN MANIFESTATIONS BY PRESENTA-
TION OF HIGHLY VISIBLE SYMBOLS OF US PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN.
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